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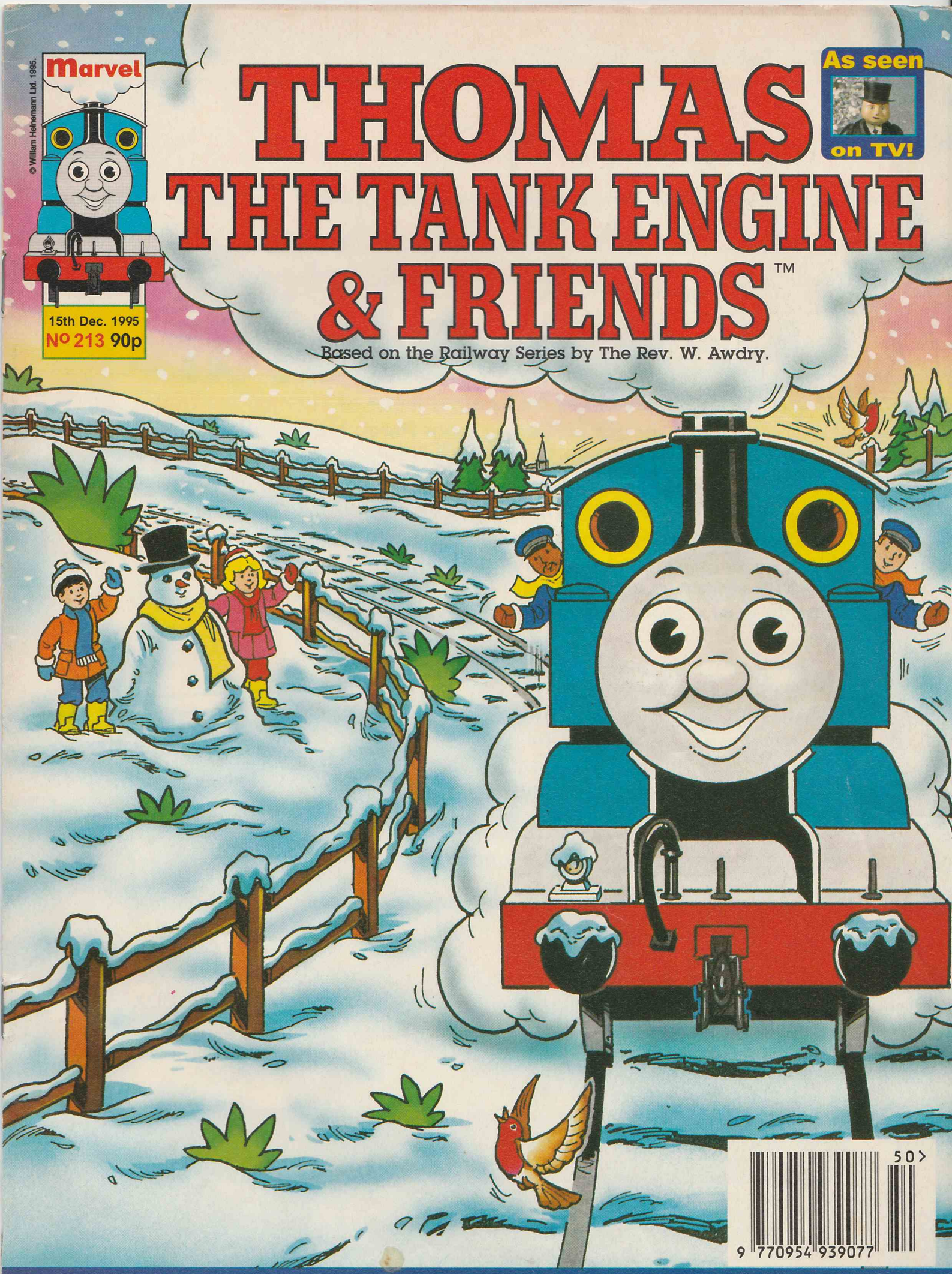
Marvel

15th Dec. 1995
No 213 90p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

As seen on TV!

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



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Competition! New stories! Activities!

ALL AB

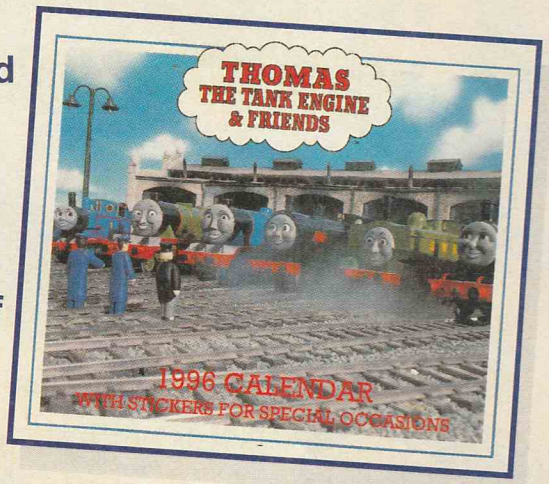
Notice Board!

Peep! Peep! Climb aboard for another issue of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends! In our first story, poor Percy has problems with a flooded section of the line! Find out what happens in 'Wet wheels!' Then, read all about James and his special passenger in 'Seeing red!' Finally, in our last story 'Model passengers,' Thomas sees a mysterious man waiting in the rain for hours! Read the story and find out why! Don't forget to cut out and keep the next Number Gallery! Plus there's a splendid competition for you to enter, too!

Peep! Peep!

25 calenders to be won!

One of these terrific Thomas 1996 Calenders, by Judges Postcards, could be yours if you enter our great competition! Each calender contains pictures of your favourite engine friends and also comes complete with special stickers to help you remember special days in the year! To win one of these prizes, answer the following question:



Donald has a twin - what is his name?

Send your answers on a postcard to: Thomas/Judges Calender Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX
Closing date: 18th December 1995.

If you're not one of the lucky winners, don't despair! You can still purchase one from all branches of Clinton Cards. Or you can order direct from Judges Postcards Ltd., 176 Bexhill Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN38 8BN

TOMY train sets to be won - turn to page 18 for your chance!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**. Chairman: Jim Galton; Managing Director: Richard Maskell; Managing Editor: Alan O'Keefe; Editor: Cynthia O'Neill; Project Leader: Jason Quinn; Art Director: Helen Nally; Design: Steve Rawlinson; Production: Mark Irvine, Andy Parslow. Office of Publication: 13-15 Arundel St., London WC2R 3DX. All 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. **'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS'** is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 0171 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

ABC
CONSUMER PRESS
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

OARD!

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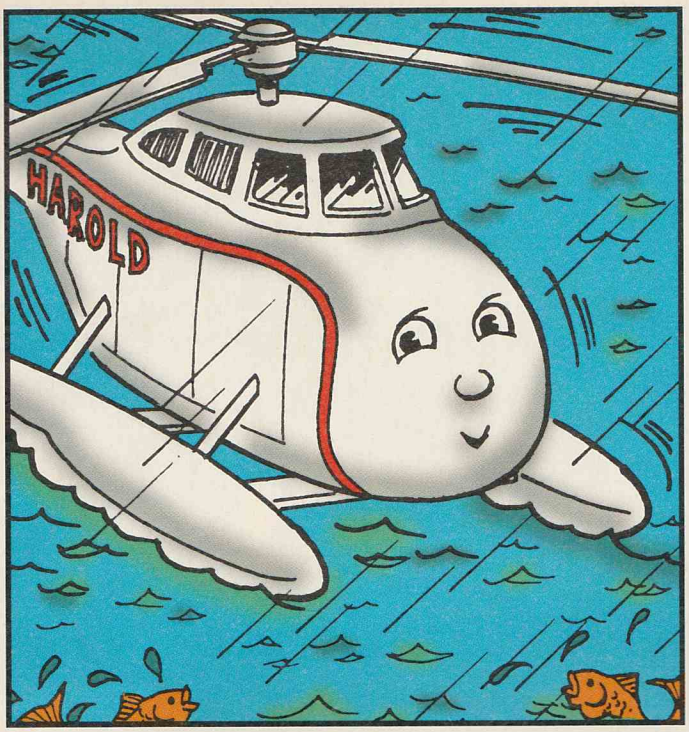
A LISTEN AND LEARN STORY

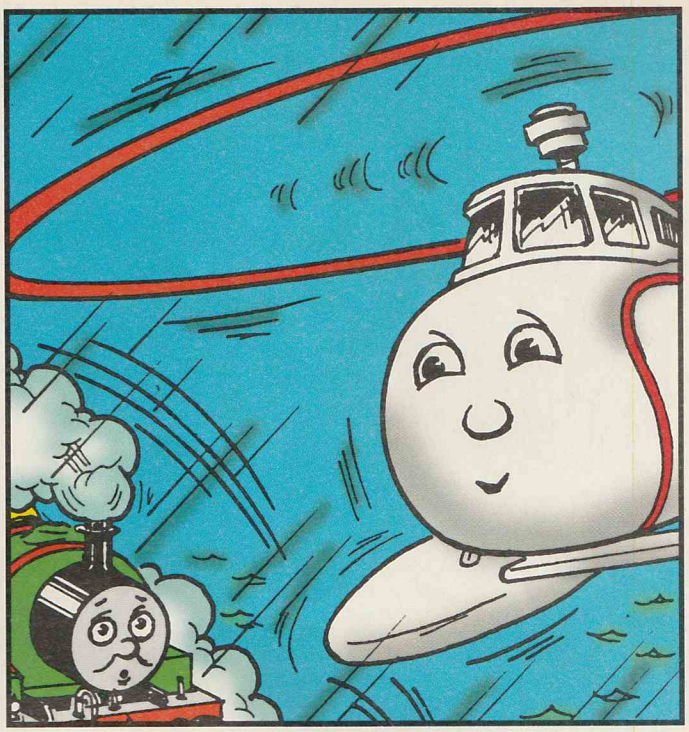
Wet wheels!

1. It had been raining for days. As Percy collected a goods train from the Big Harbour, he saw Harold the Helicopter fly past on his way to deliver supplies to the lighthouse.

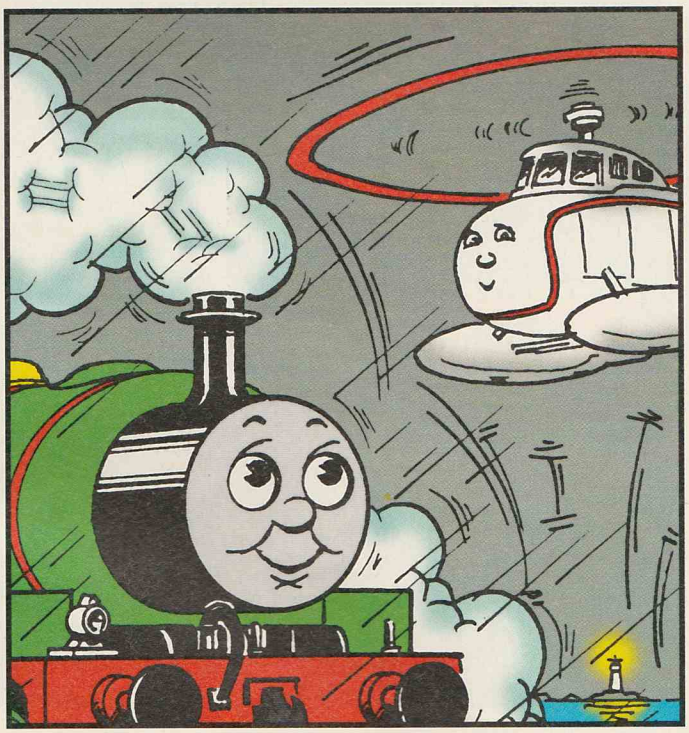
2. Suddenly, Harold's whirly blades made a strange noise. "Smoke and fire!" gasped Percy. "I think Harold's in trouble!" Sure enough, Harold began to lose height.



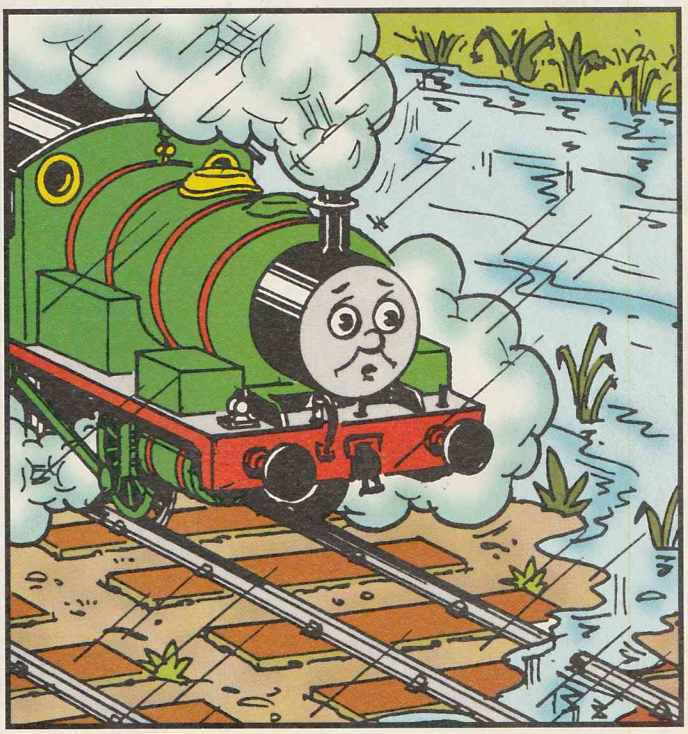
3. "He'll crash into the sea!" Percy cried, in alarm. But Harold landed gently on the water. Percy was very relieved. A few minutes later, Harold took off again.



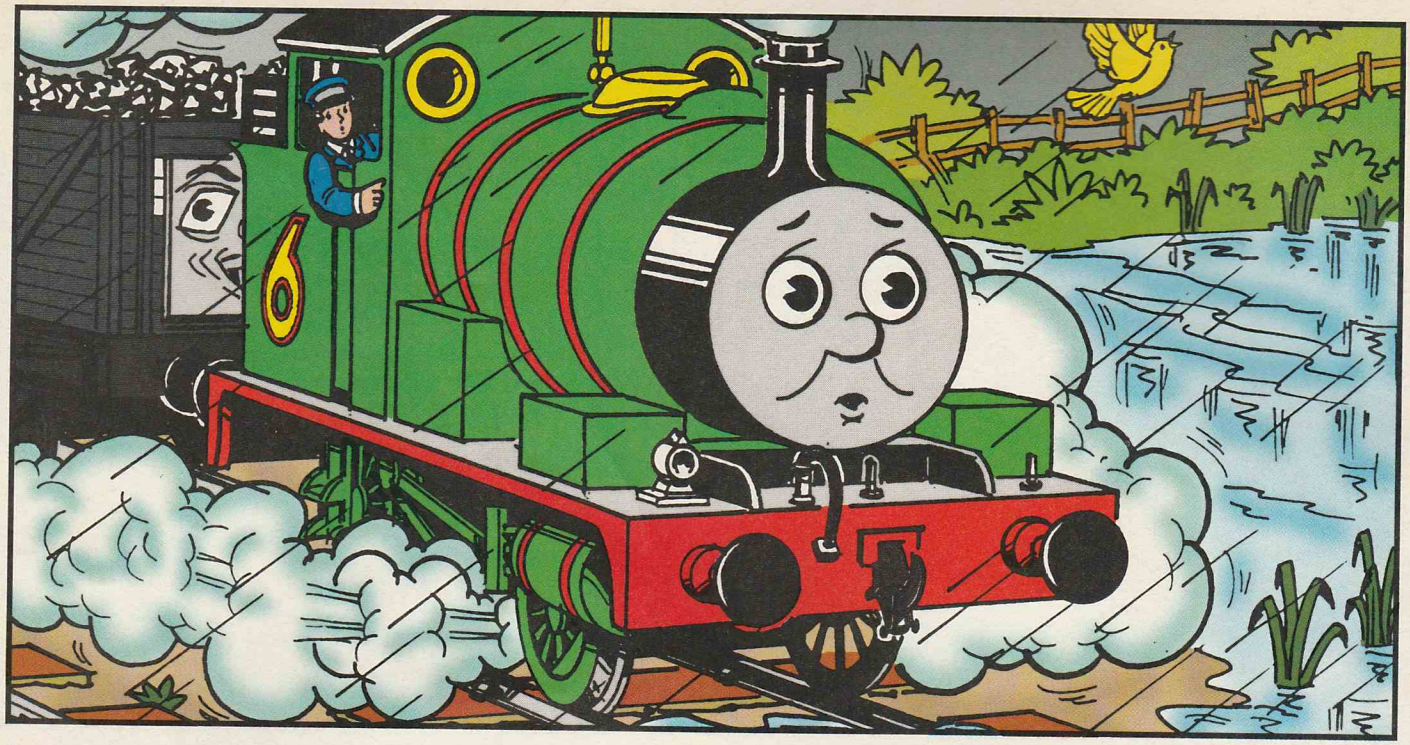
4. "Are you alright?" Percy called. "I'm fine now, thanks," replied Harold. "Just a spot of bother with my motor!" "I thought you would sink!" replied Percy.



5. "I can't because of my special white floats," Harold told him. "Engines don't need floats, only wheels," smiled Percy. "You won't see me getting mine wet!"



6. Harold flew off and Percy puffed on his way with his trucks. Soon he neared a section of track beside a river. The heavy rain had made it burst its banks to flood the line.

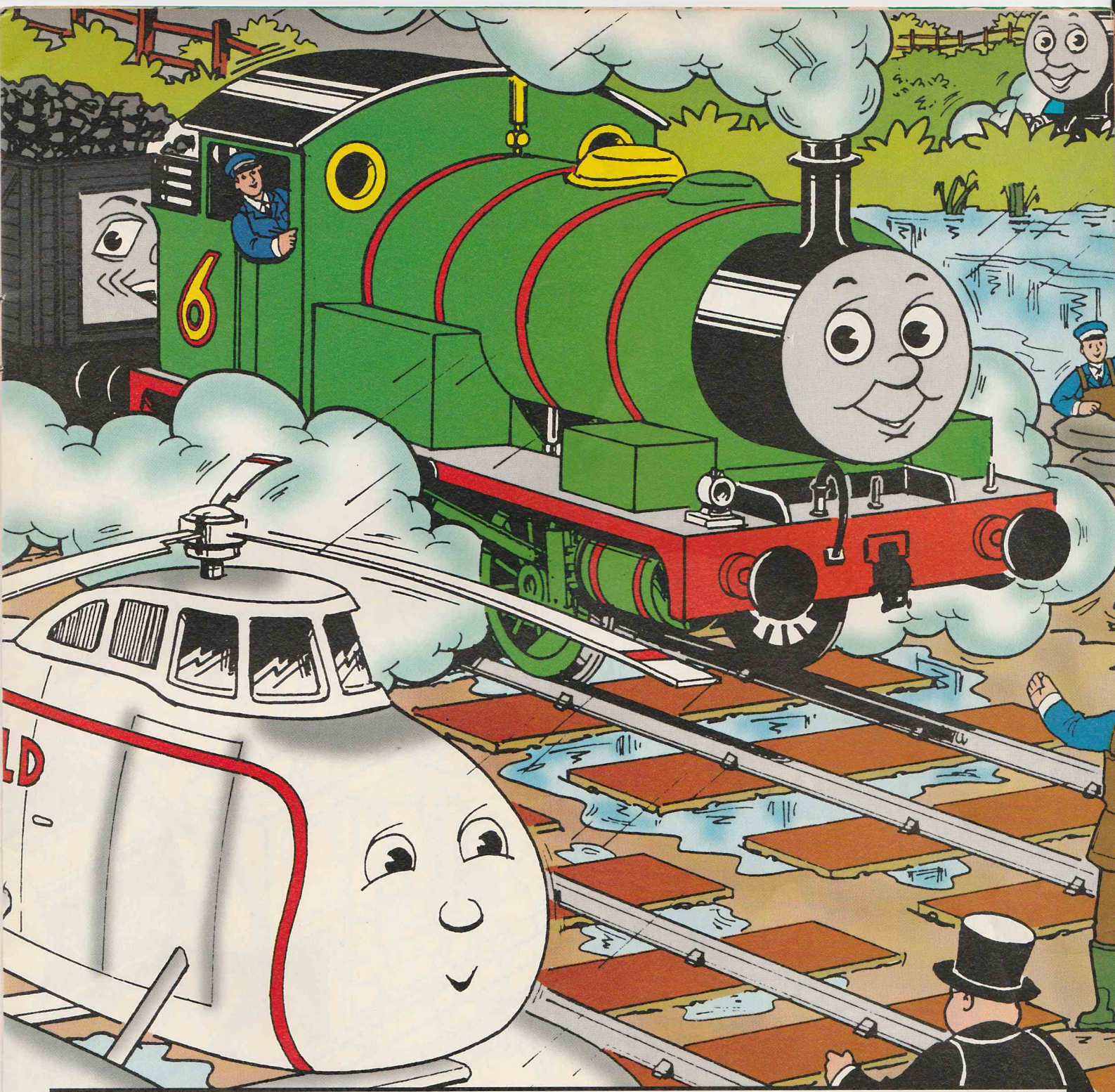


7. "We can still get through," the driver called. "Right-o," replied Percy, bravely. "Full steam ahead!" As he rolled forwards, Percy felt a sudden jolt and came to a halt.

8. "What's wrong?" he cried. Percy had broken down. A connecting rod to his wheels had snapped. "Oh no! We're stuck here until you can be repaired!" said Percy's driver.

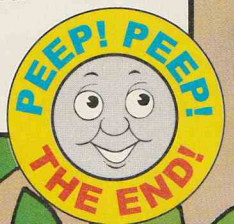
9. Percy was worried. Already his wheels felt cold and wet. More and more water was flowing down from the river on to the line. "This is an emergency!" said his driver.

10. He climbed out of his cab and waded through the rising water to go and telephone for help. "Please hurry" shouted Percy, "or I'll sink!" Soon his driver returned.



11. By then the water was nearly halfway up Percy's wheels. "My wheels are almost awash now," he groaned. Next moment, Percy heard Harold approaching. He watched excitedly as the helicopter landed on the flooded ground. "The Fat Controller asked me to fetch your spare part, Percy!" Harold had also brought two railway engineers. They quickly set to work to mend Percy.

12. A little later, Thomas steamed as close as he could with some more workmen and the Fat Controller. They brought sandbags to hold back the flood. They stacked up the bags by the line. "Don't worry Percy! You will soon be safe!" the Fat Controller told him. At last, Percy got underway again. "Phew! Thanks Harold" he said. "I nearly needed floats like yours, after all!"



Count an

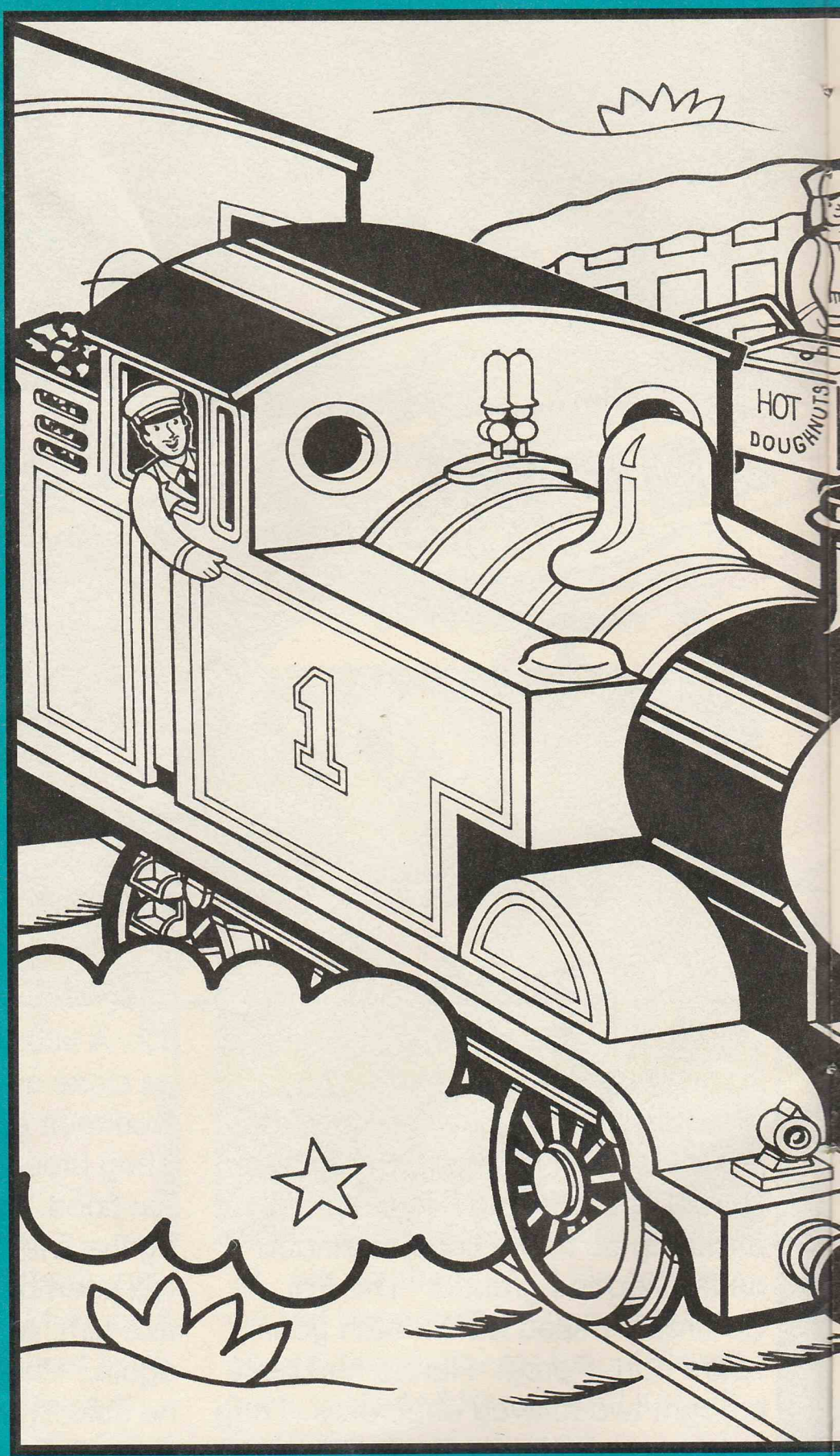
How many of these things can you see in the station?

DOG

BALLOON

CHILDREN

DRIVER



Look very caref

nd colour!

ully - can you find 5 stars in the big picture?

YOUR LETTERS

STAR LETTER!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win one of these Thomas push and pull motorised engines!

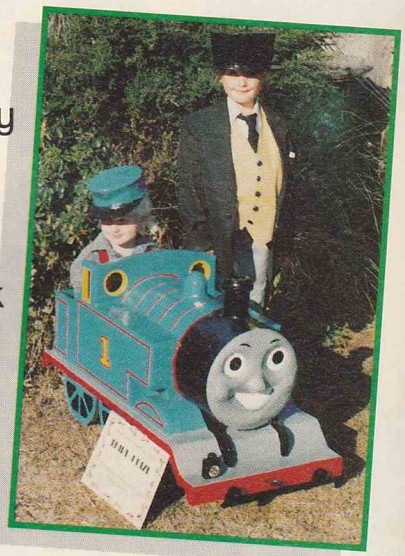
Dear Fat Controller,
Can you tell me if you have any friends, as you're nearly always alone. If you haven't got any friends, can I be your friend?
Love from Kelsey Copper, age 2
Well, Kelsey! As a matter of fact I do have lots of friends. But that's not to say that I don't want any more, so if you'd like to be my friend too, then I would be most honoured!

Dear Fat Controller,
How often is Diesel bad? Mummy says that I am bad most of the time!
Love from Adrian Walsh, aged 6.
Goodness me, that is a tricky question! Well, it's difficult to know how often Diesel behaves badly, you know. I'm sure that he quite often gets up to no good when my back is turned.

Dear Fat Controller,
I think that your top hat looks very smart! Daddy made me a top hat just like yours, but our dog chewed it up when Mummy took me to the shops!
Yours sadly, Anthony Edmunds.
Don't be too sad, Anthony! I am sure that your Daddy won't mind making you another hat. But next time, make sure that you put it away somewhere safe when you go out - just in case your dog gets up to more mischief!

Photo of the fortnight!

Here is a picture of me as the Fat Controller and my brother as the engine driver. Daddy built this Thomas the Tank for us to enter in a carnival!
Love from Amy and Jon, aged 5 and 3.



BIRTHDAYS

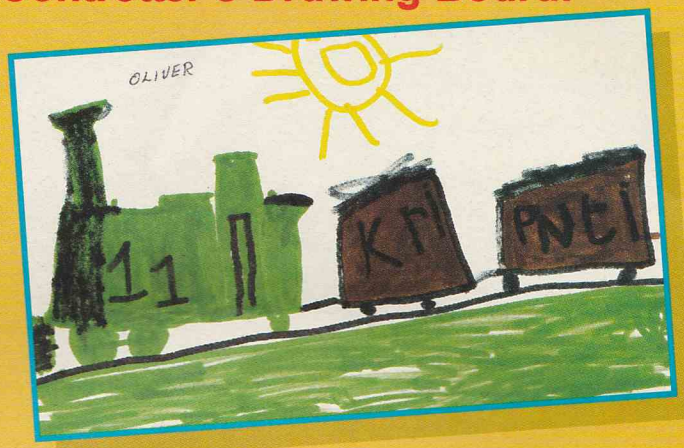
birthday greetings to the following readers...

Michael Short, aged 6, Terence Jones, aged 4, Stella Armstrong, aged 5, David Williams, aged 5, Jonathon Smart, aged 6, Emma Sullivan, aged 4, William Bury, aged 3 and Paul Atkins, aged 7.

Drawing Board!

Thank you for sending your smashing drawings and pictures to the Fat Controller's Drawing Board!

This splendid picture of Oliver was coloured by Alistair Neil Buss, who lives a long way away in South Africa!

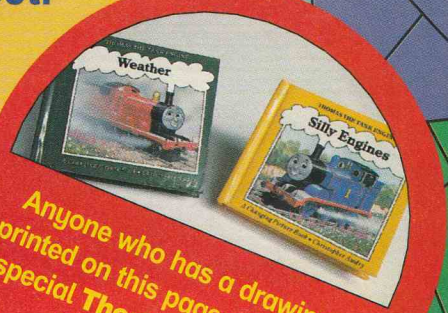


Alex Woodland, from Surrey, has sent in this impressive picture of Thomas the Tank Engine on a bright sunny afternoon.

Here's the Fat Controller and Thomas having a good old chat. Congratulations to Elliot Smith, from Bedfordshire, for drawing this lively scene!

This extremely colourful picture of Percy was created by Adam Miles, from Somerset.

If you would like to have your drawing or painting displayed, then please send your entries to:
The Fat Controller's Drawing Board, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Limited, 13-15 Arundel Street, London, WC2R 3DX.



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special Thomas Changing Picture Book.

CUT OUT AND KEEP

Number G

Who can you see in this picture? That's right, it's Toby the Tram Engine! Today Toby is about to help in the Main Station yard, but this picture isn't complete. Have you got your cut-outs from our last issue? If so, stick them on this page to finish the picture! Then save the small pictures to the right of the drawing and keep them in a safe place, so you can complete the Number gallery in our next issue!

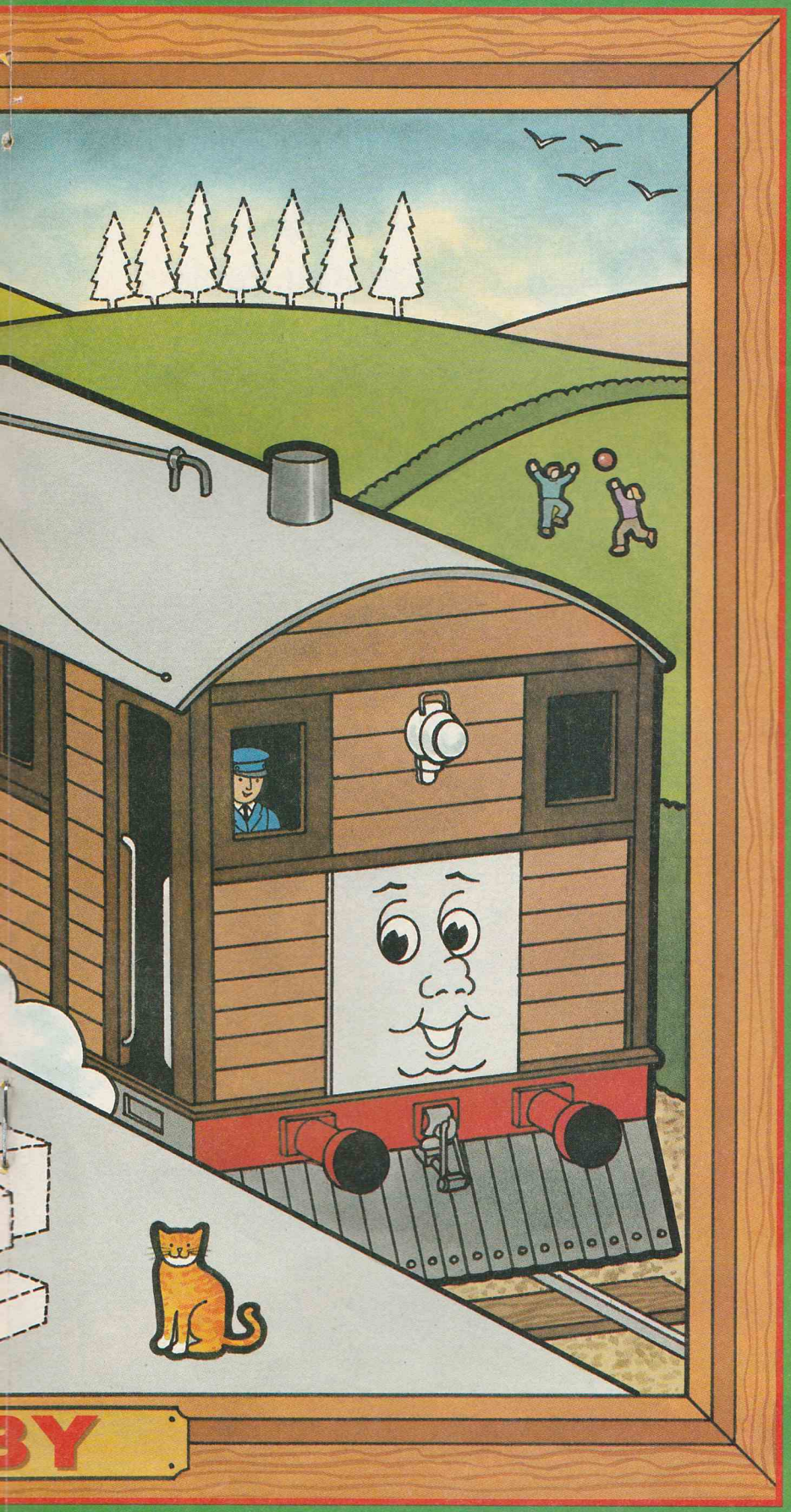
Here comes Toby,
Puffing down the line,
He mustn't be late,
He needs to be on time!
Stopping at the platform,
With a cheeky smile,
The passengers all look,
As he arrives in style!

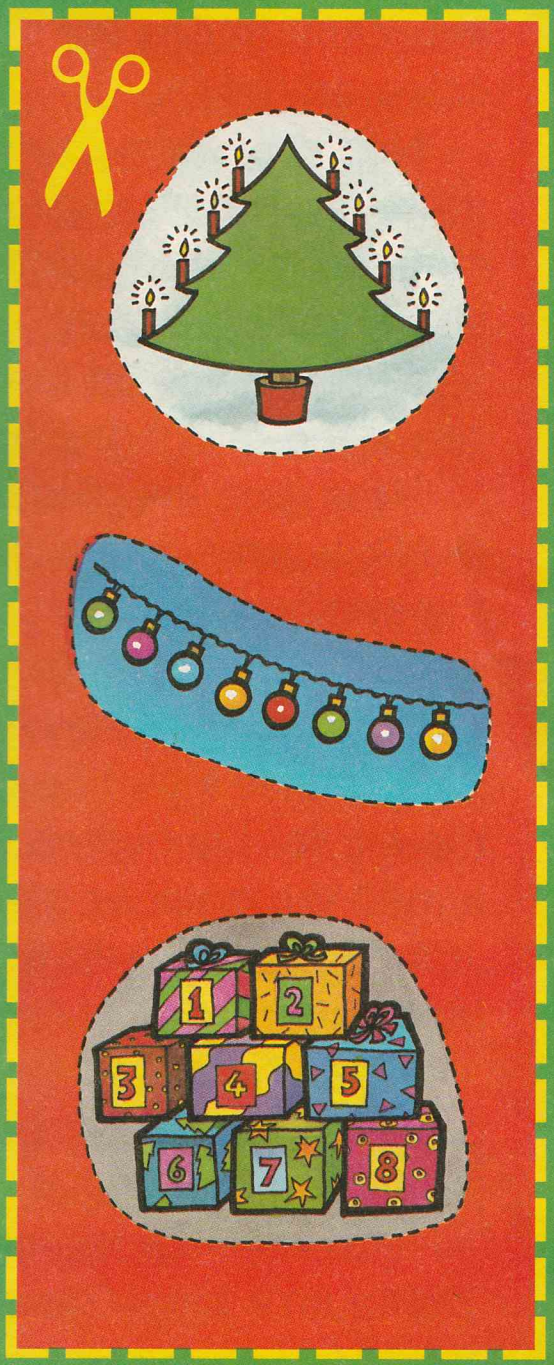
What colour is the cat?

How many guards can you see?

Gallery

7





Seeing red!

"Red is the best colour for an engine," James boasted to Thomas and the others, a few weeks before Christmas. "Lots of important things are coloured red."

Near the Main Station yard, a red post van stopped at a red pillar box to collect letters. The engines could also see a red telephone box.

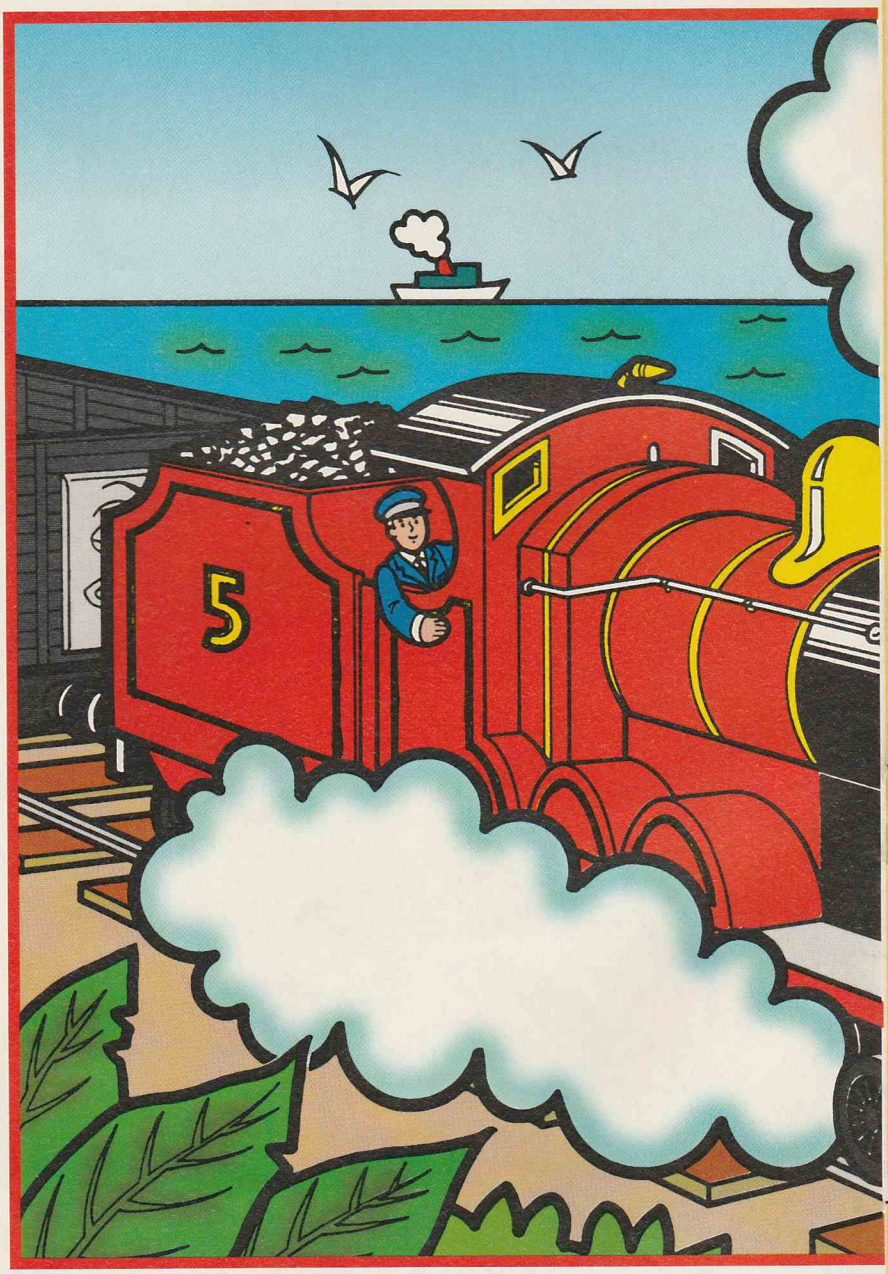
Next moment, Bertie the Bus arrived outside the station.

"Look! Even Bertie's red!" laughed James.

"Pah! He's getting too big for his buffers," fumed the engines after James had left with a passenger train.

When he pulled into a station, a man was putting up a poster. 'Visit Santa's Grotto at Tidmouth's Main Store this Christmas' it read. James saw the picture of Santa and could hardly wait to tell everyone.

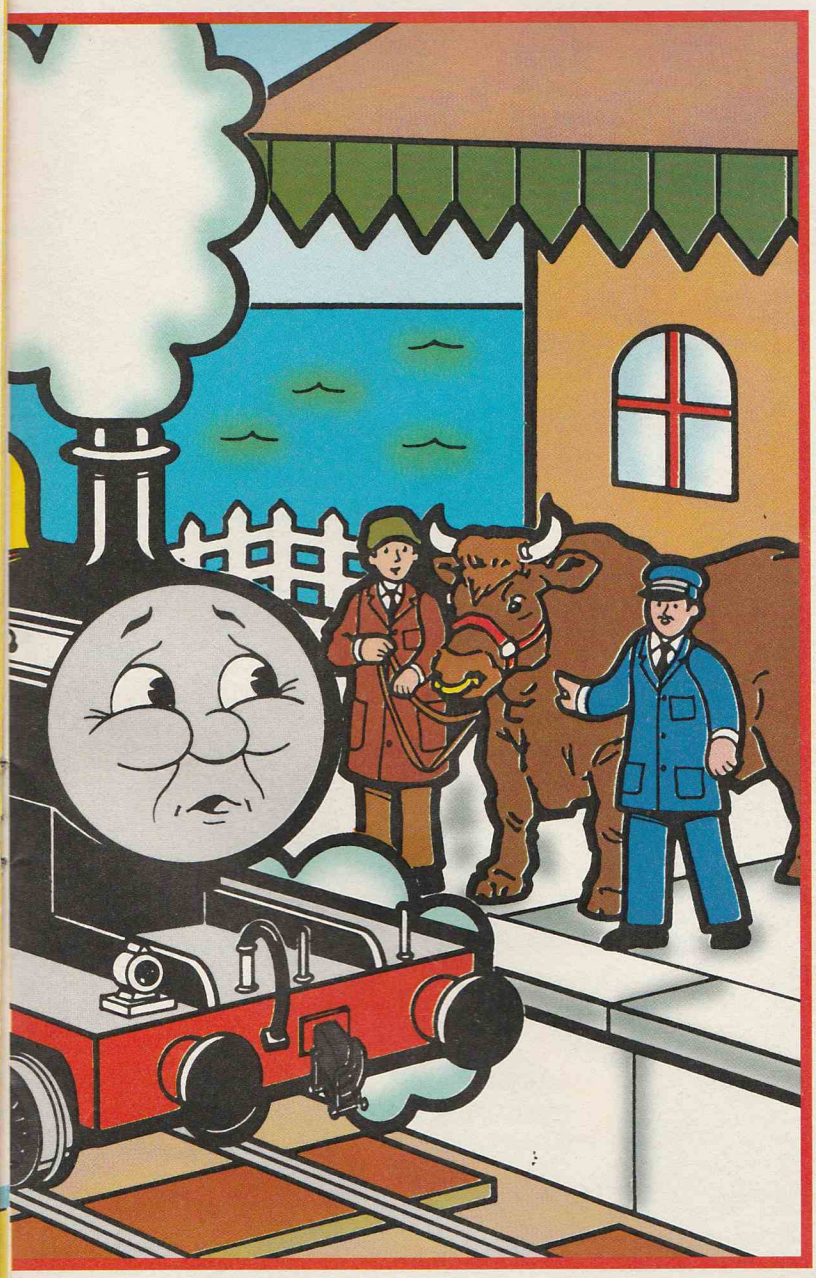
"Santa wears red, too!" he said that night, in the engine shed.



Next morning, the Fat Controller spoke to James. "A special passenger is arriving by ship," he said.

"It must be Santa," thought James, excitedly. "What could be better than a red engine, like me, to collect him!"

James set off at once. But at the Harbour Yard, he was coupled to a truck.



"I need a carriage for Santa, not a truck!" he said.

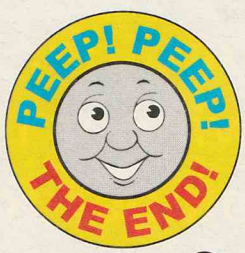
Next moment, James heard a noise and a big, brown bull was led off the ship. It looked very bad tempered.

"There's your special passenger," said his driver, "a prize bull for a farm."

James was shocked, especially when the bull tried to escape. It did not like the huffing, puffing engine and its large horns scratched James's paintwork. James nervously delivered the bull as fast as he could. Later, the other engines heard what had happened. Now James felt foolish for showing off. He was cross about the scratches on his shiny paintwork, too.

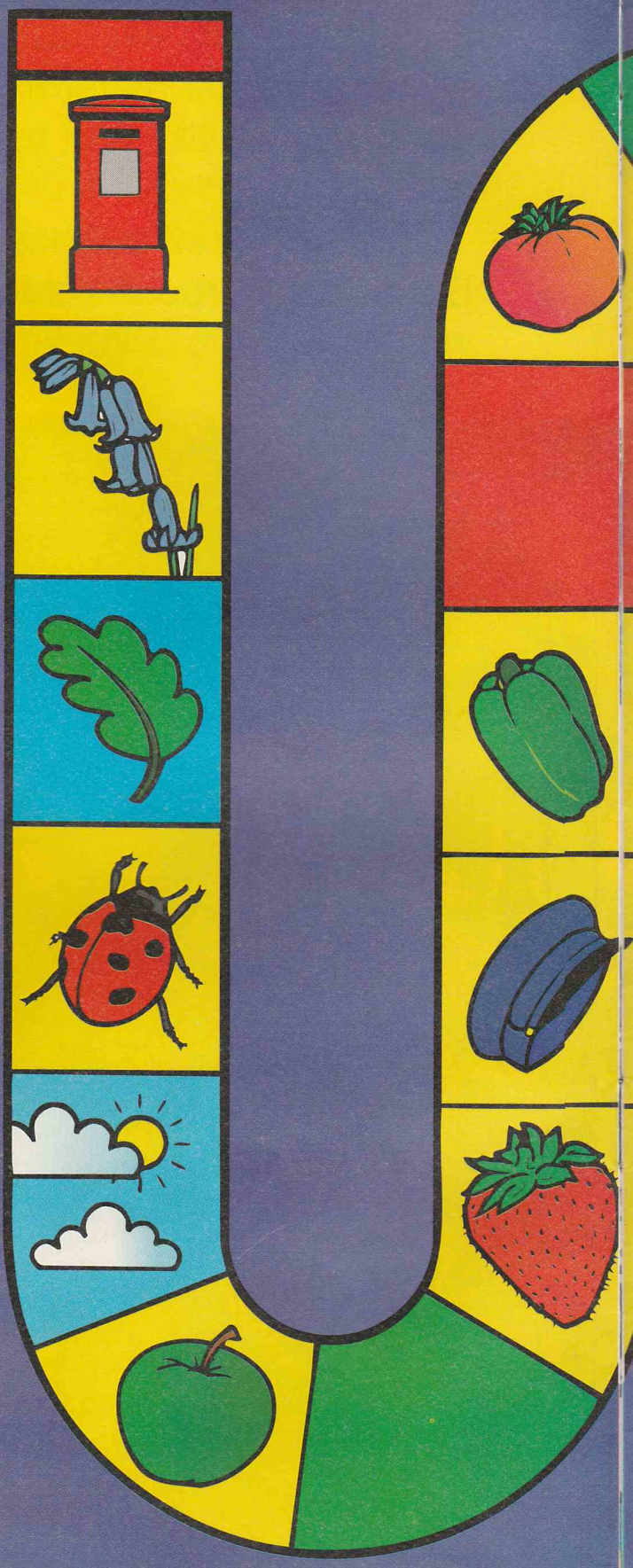
"The bull saw red," said James's driver. "That means he was angry."

"I think James is, too!" teased Percy as James, without a word, went off to the Works to have his paint resprayed.

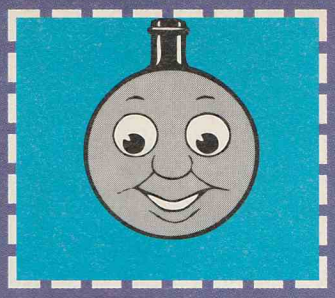


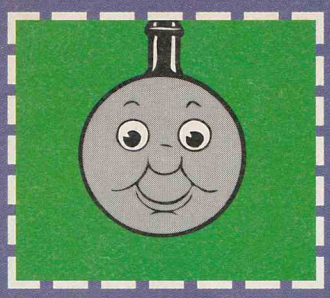
COLOUR CHAS

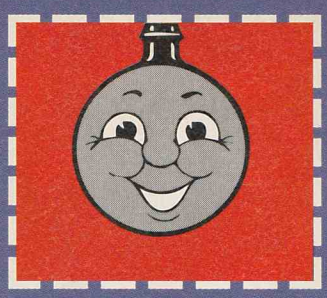
Peep! Peep! Here's a game for two or three players. First cut out the engine counters and choose one each. **Each player must throw the dice in turn and move their engine along the path! If your engine lands on a square that shows an object of the same colour, you can then move your counter on two more spaces!** But if you land on a square that has a different colour object, then you must wait until your next turn for another throw. The winner is the first player to reach the finish. **Peep! Peep!**

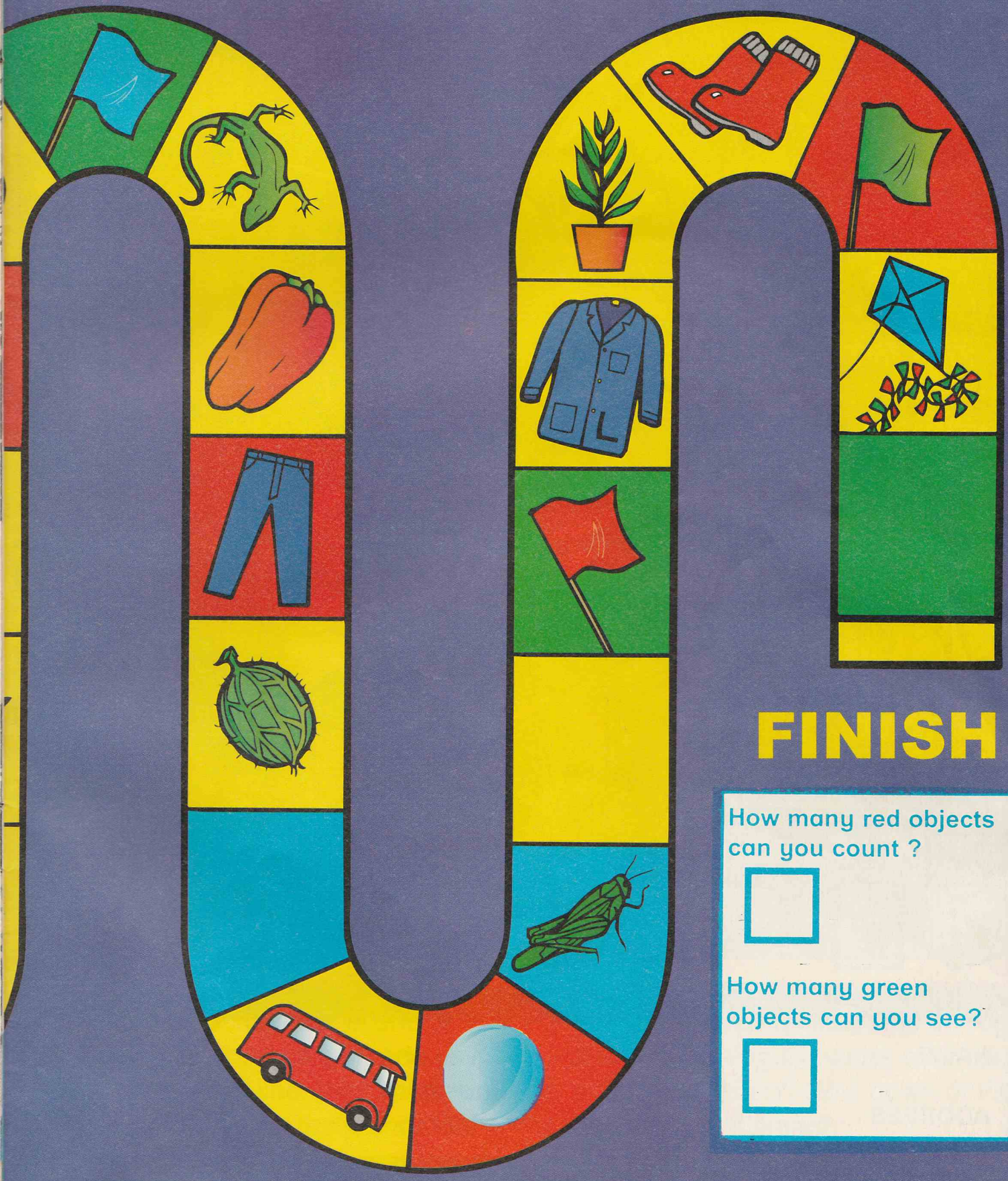


SE!









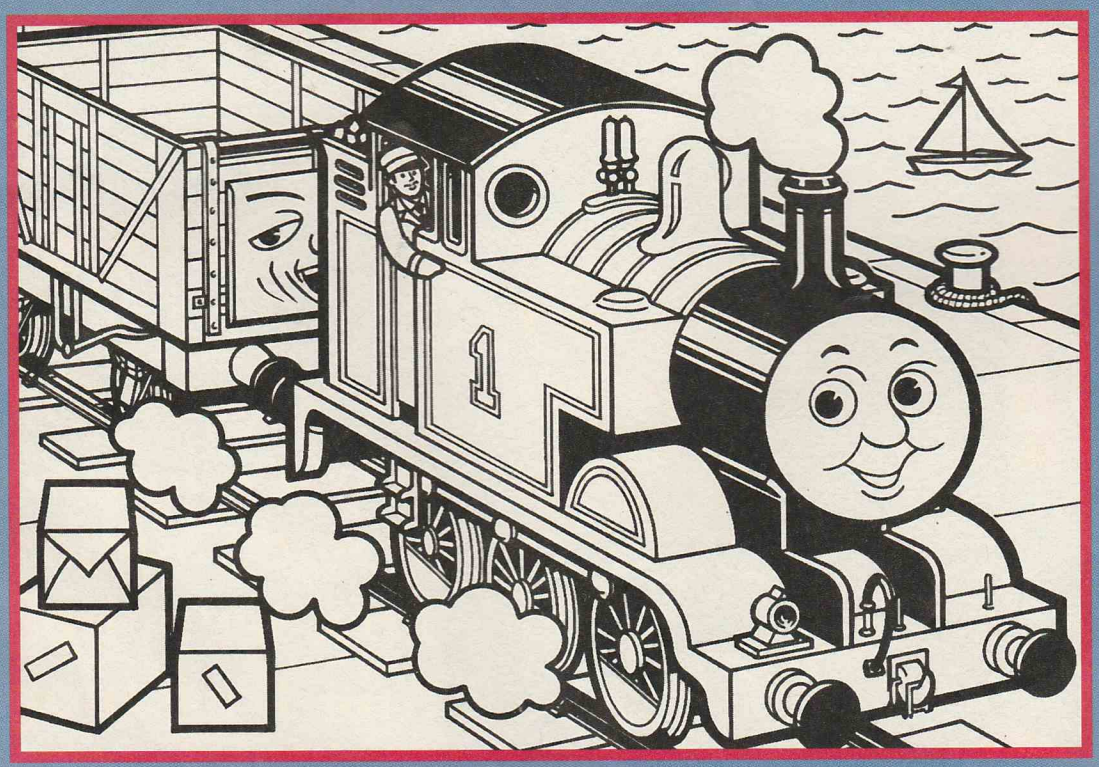
FINISH

How many red objects can you count ?

How many green objects can you see?

SIX SPLENDID PRIZES UP FOR GRABS!

Have all the fun of running your own railway - without leaving your home! This exciting Thomas the Tank Engine railway, from TOMY UK Limited, could be all yours in our fun competition! Each set includes an engine, carriages, track, bridge, station platform and an engine shed!



HOW TO ENTER:

Simply colour this picture as brightly as you can, fill out your details on the entry coupon and send your entry to: TOMY/Thomas competition, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE COMPETITION IS 18/12/95.

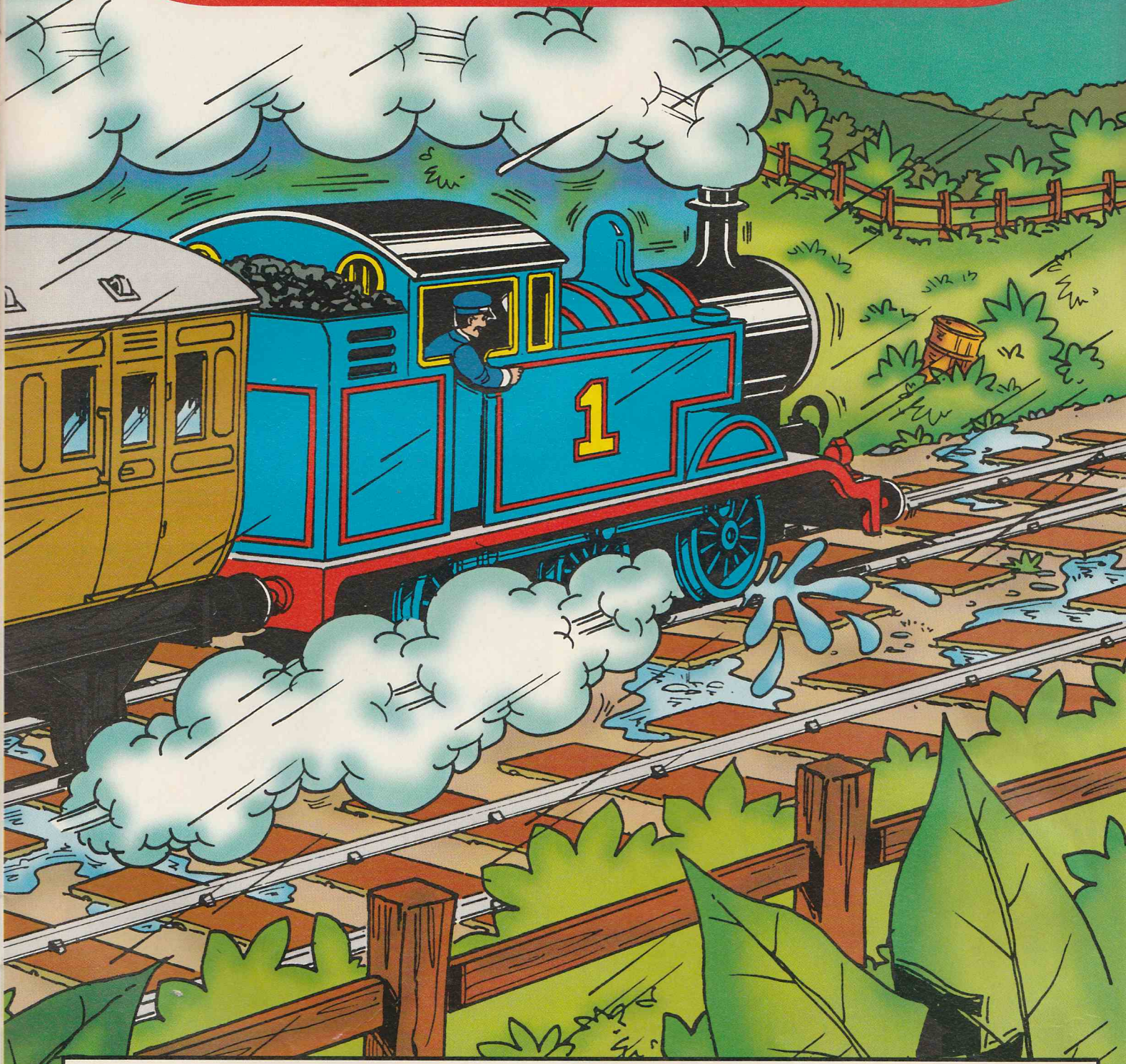
NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

LISTEN AND LEARN STORY

Model passenger!

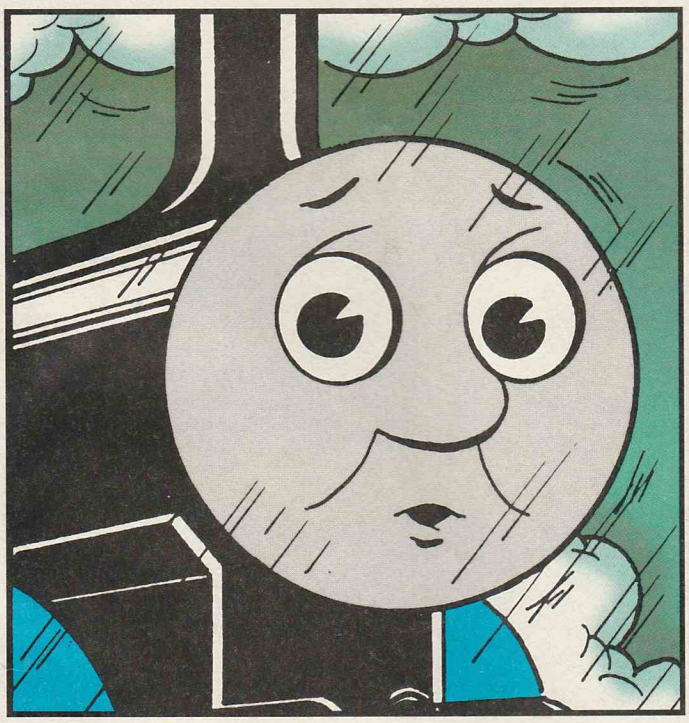


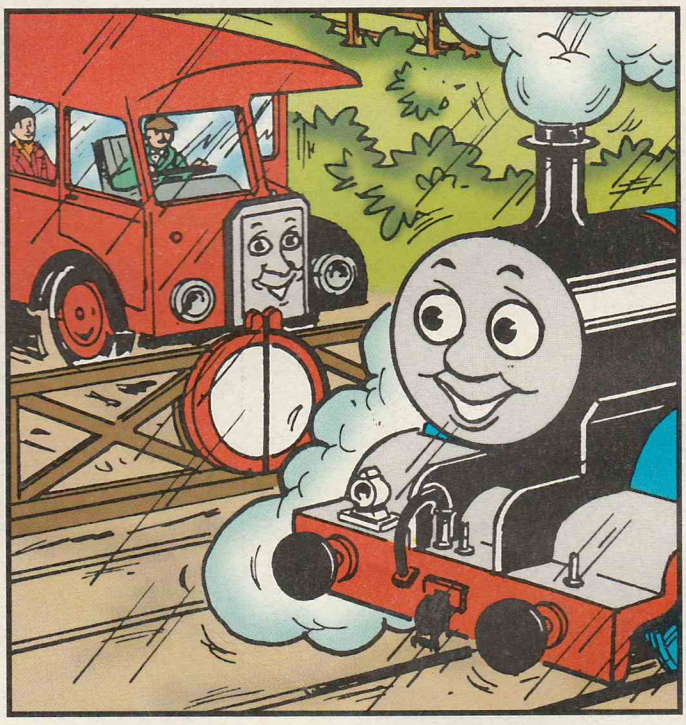
1. Cold wintry weather was sweeping across the Island of Sodor. As Thomas worked busily on his branch line, high winds and heavy rain made the going hard.

2. There were big puddles on the track. But Thomas steamed through them, splashing icy water over his paintwork. "I can't slow down or I'll be late," he shivered.

3. "I won't leave my passengers standing about in this terrible weather," thought Thomas kindly. "Passengers are very important to a Really Useful engine, like me!"

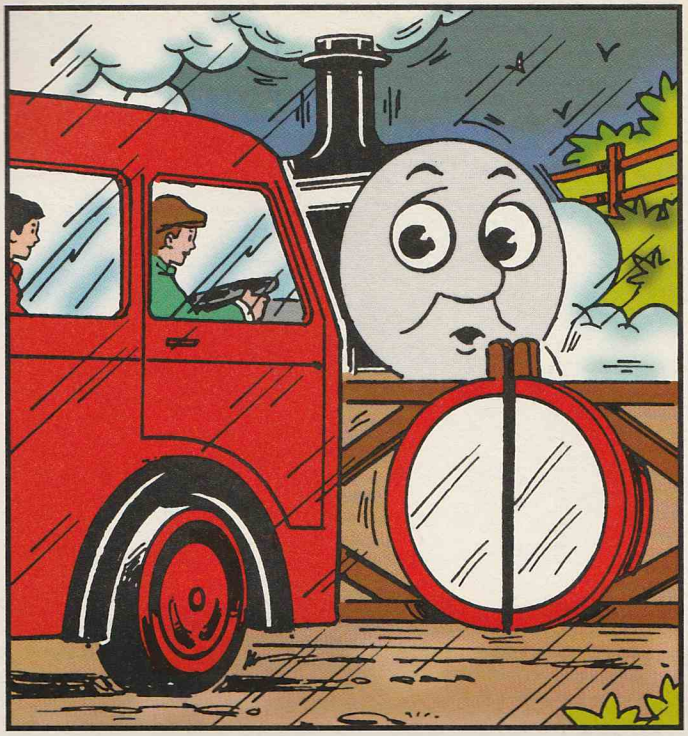
4. As Thomas puffed to and fro, taking people along his line, he passed a bus stop in a lane. Over the top of a hedge, Thomas could just see a man waiting there.



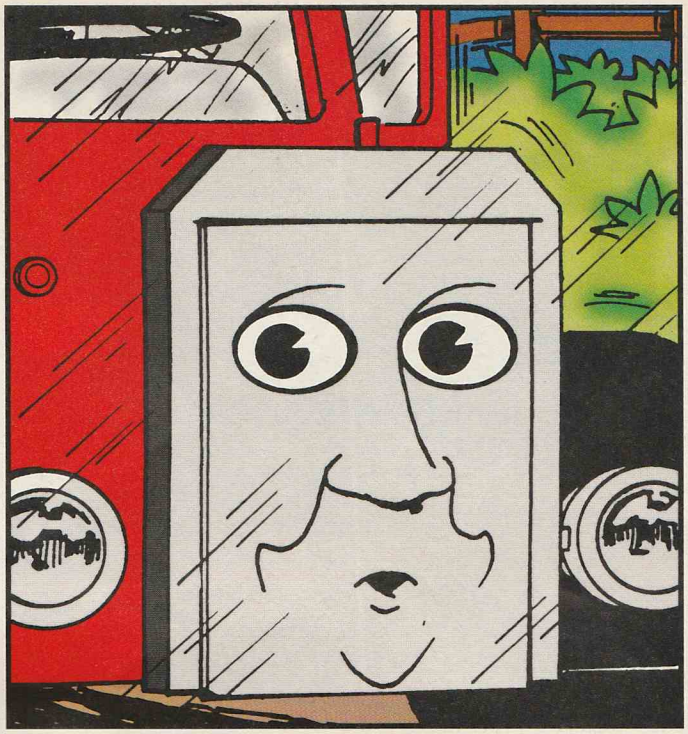


5. "What a shame! I hope Bertie gets here soon to collect him," thought Thomas. "He'll get soaked in this rain. Railway passengers can wait at nice, dry stations!"

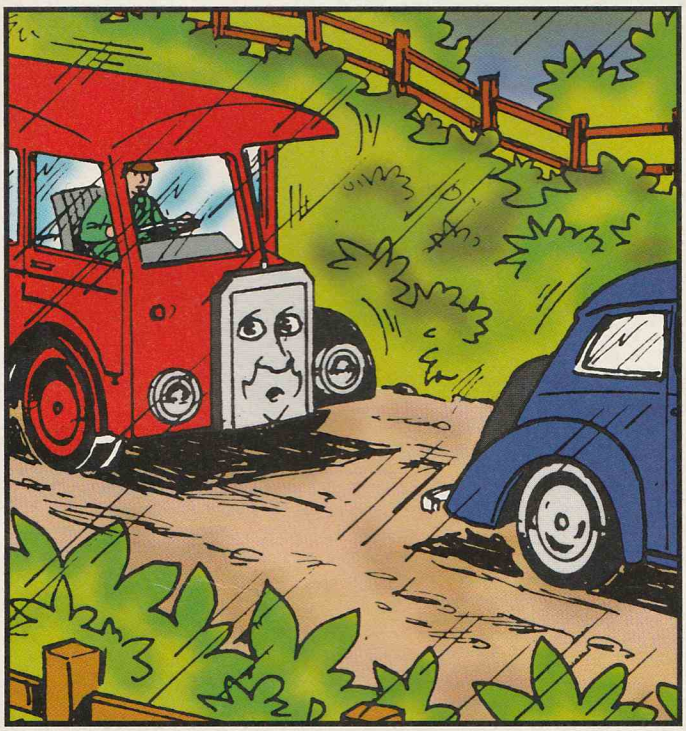
6. Soon Thomas passed Bertie at a crossing and called out to him. "Hello, Thomas!" replied Bertie. "Fancy us having to work in weather like this!"



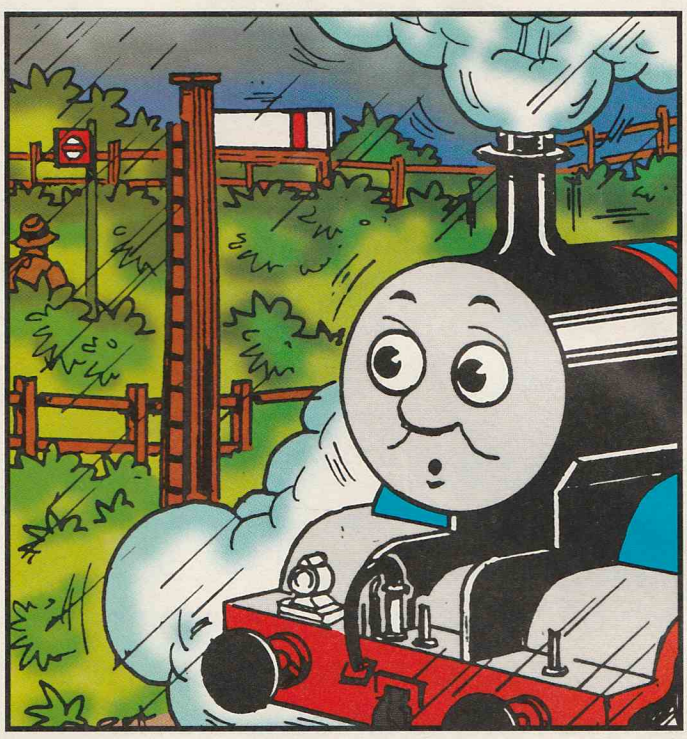
7. "Standing around in it is even worse," huffed Thomas. He told Bertie about the man at the bus stop. "Oh, dear!" said Bertie. "Not all bus stops have shelters!"



8. "I won't be driving back that way for quite a while," added Bertie. "If the man had read the timetable at the bus stop, he would know when I am due there!"



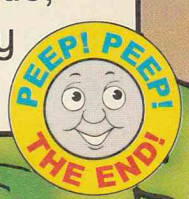
9. Bertie was running late too, because of so much traffic. "I'm always on time," boasted Thomas, as he set off again. "I'm doing the best I can," sighed Bertie.



10. Thomas reached one end of his branch line. Then he turned round and went the other way. Through the rain, Thomas saw the man was still standing at the bus stop.

11. "Pah! Disgraceful," fumed Thomas as he stopped at a signal nearby. "Passengers shouldn't be kept waiting for ages, like that. He'll catch a nasty cold!" Next moment, Bertie arrived. "About time, too!" called Thomas. "You must look after your passengers!" "I do," Bertie replied. "I've even let one travel all the way back here without a return fare."

12. A man stepped out of Bertie and lifted up the figure at the bus stop. "Fancy me leaving this dummy for my shop window behind when I caught the bus earlier," smiled the passenger. "Thanks for your help, Bertie!" Thomas overheard. Now he felt very silly. "My mistake, Bertie," said Thomas. "You are a Really Useful Bus, after all!"



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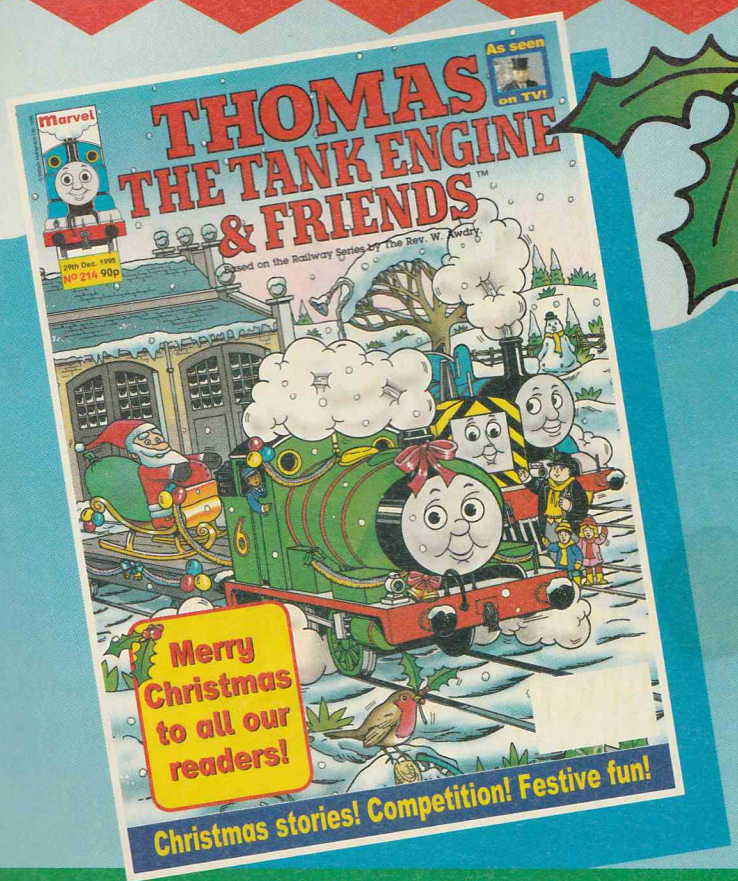

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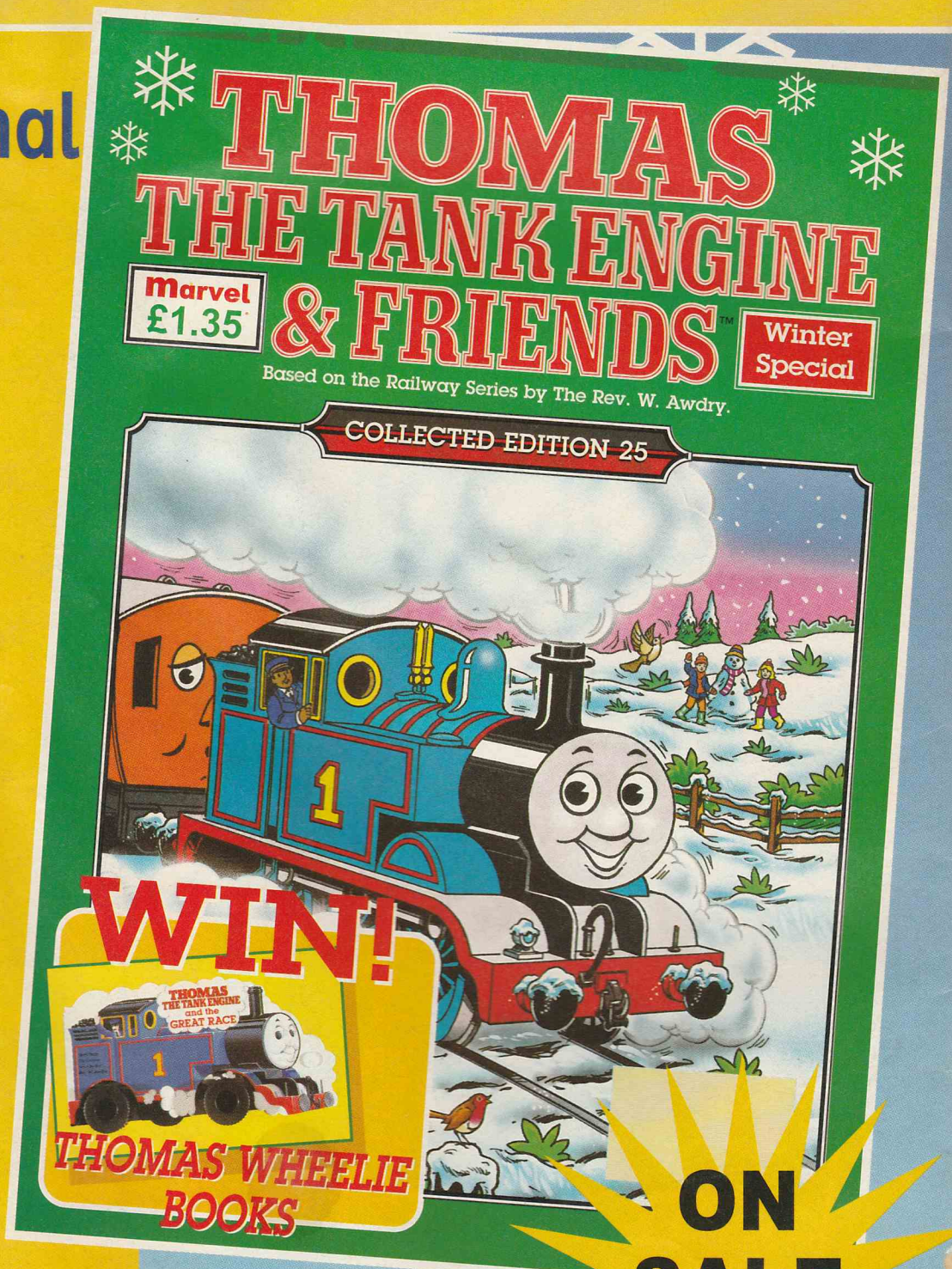

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